

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-10 NSC-05 HA-05
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 04308

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, IR
SUBJ: IRANIAN PRESS SUPPORTS RULE OF LAW

REF: A. TEHRAN 3955, B. TEHRAN 4115, C. TEHRAN 4152

SUMMARY: IRANIAN PRESS OVER PAST TWO DAYS HAS SUPPORTED MAJLES
DEPUTY'S CALL FOR INVESTIGATION INTO BOMBINGS OF DISSIDENT
HOMES (REF A). THEME IS RULE OF LAW MUST PREVAIL. FACT
ARTICLES APPEARED MAY PORTEND BEGINNING OF SHIFT IN GOI
ATTITUDE TOWARD EXTRA-LEGAL VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. BOTH ENGLISH AND FARSI PRESS PUBLISHED EDITORIALS MAY 6-7
COMMENTING ON RECENT SPATE OF VIOLENT ACTIVITIES AND THEIR
ORIGINS. TEHRAN JOURNAL MAY 6 COMMENDED MAJLES DEPUTY
PEZESHKPOUR'S CALL FOR GOI ACCOUNTING OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN
RELATION TO BOMBING OF TWO DISSIDENT LAWYERS' OFFICES.
EDITORIAL NOTED JUSTICE MINISTER KIANPOUR HAD REPLIED IN
PARLIAMENT MAY 4: "THE MINISTER PLEDGED CONTINUED GOVERNMENT
VIGILANCE AND ACTION BASED STRICTLY ON LAWS DESIGNED TO
PROTECT SOCIETY FROM CORRUPTION, CONSPIRACIES AND ALL
OTHER TYPES OF VIOLENCE. SUCH ATTACKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED
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AS PART OF THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS GUARANTEED IN IRAN AS
MUTUAL RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S RIGHTS IS A NECESSITY,
HE ARGUED. KEYANPOUR EXPOUNDED AT LENGTH ON THE GOVERNMENT'S
CONDEMNATION OF SUCH TERROR TACTICS."

2. KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL ALSO NOTED KIANPOUR'S COMMITMENT
"BOTH TO PROTECT THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND

LIBERTIES OF ALL IRANIANS AND TO ACT WITH DETERMINATION AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD ENGAGE IN VIOLENCE TO ACHIEVE THEIR ENDS...". EDITORIAL SAID "KIANPOUR RIGHTLY EMPHASIZED THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF UNLAWFUL ACTS IN PURSUIT OF POLITICAL ENDS. IRANIANS WILL NOT SUFFER INDIVIDUALS WHO GO AROUND PLACING BOMBS IN PEOPLE'S HOMES AND OFFICES; IN THE SAME WAY THEY WILL NOT SUFFER THOSE WHO RESORT TO MOB VIOLENCE, WHO DESTROY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROPERTY, AND WHO FORCIBLY DISRUPT CENTERS OF EDUCATION AND LEARNING, WHO PURSUE THE POLITICS OF THE STREET RATHER THAN THE POLITICS OF PARLIAMENT." IT CLOSED WITH FOLLOWING: "IRANIANS SHOULD STAND TOGETHER IN THE FIRM DETERMINATION THAT, DURING THIS PERIOD OF LIBERALIZATION, THE RULE OF LAW SHALL PREVAIL. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WILL BE THE TASK OF PARLIAMENT AND THE RASTAKHIZ PARTY TO ENSURE THAT POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS CHANNELLED INTO INSTITUTIONAL FORUMS FOR ORDERLY AND RATIONAL PUBLIC DIALOGUE AND DEBATE."
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3. WHILE WORDS ARE PERHAPS CLOSER TO ASPIRATIONS OF MIDDLE CLASS THAT REFLECTION OF IMMEDIATE REALITY, FACT THAT PRESS PUBLISHED THEM IS SIGNIFICANT. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PRIVATE DISCUSSION AT ALL LEVELS OF IRANIAN SOCIETY ON PROBLEM OF VIOLENCE AND POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT
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COMPLICITY. IN VIEW OF THIS, GOI MAY BE BENDING A BIT TO PUBLIC SENTIMENT AND PREPARING TO MOVE DISCREETLY TOWARD LAW AND ORDER POSTURE. ACCORDING TO ONE IRANIAN PRESSMAN, WHO WAS FRANKLY SURPRISED HIS PAPER WOULD RUN SUCH AN ARTICLE IN VIEW OF GOI AND RESURGENCE PARTY ATTITUDES (REF B) OVER PAST FEW WEEKS, INCONSISTENCY OF GOI CALLING FOR PEACEFUL BEHAVIOR AND THEN APPARENTLY EITHER CONDONING VIOLENCE OR BEING INCAPABLE OF FINDING OUT WHO WAS DOING IT HAS CAUSED SOME RESTIVENESS AMONG POLICE WHO FEEL THEY ARE BEING SET UP FOR A BUM RAP BY WHAT APPEARS TO THEM AS GOI'S JANUS-LIKE ATTITUDE TOWARD VIOLENCE.
SULLIVAN

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